

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2005. Claims 61, 62, 75-93 and 107-110 were examined in the Office Action; claims 62 and 87 have been cancelled and new claims 111-132 have been added herein, leaving claims 61, 75-86, 88-93, 107-110 and 111-132 pending. Applicants have amended claims 61, 80, 81, 86, and 88-92. Applicants submit that the new and amended claims do not raise any issues of new matter. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections for the reasons that follow.

A. Rejection Under §112 Addressed

Claims 61, 75-92 and 107-110:

The Examiner rejected claims 61, 75-92 and 107-110 as containing subject matter not reasonably enabled for “any active component.” Although the Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner’s assessment, claim 61 has been amended to incorporate the Examiner’s language and thereby facilitate allowance of the case.

Claims 86, 93, and 107-110:

The Examiner rejected claims 86, 93 and 107-110 as containing subject matter not reasonably enabled for “any binding matrix.” Although the Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner’s assessment, claim 86 has been amended to incorporate the Examiner’s language and thereby facilitate allowance of the case.

Claims 80 and 81:

The Examiner rejected claims 80 and 81 as being indefinite for not specifically defining whether these claims correspond to functional, spacer and binding groups of claim 62. Claims 80 and 81 have been amended to more distinctly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention

As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are allowable, and therefore request withdrawal of the §112 rejections.

B. Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner indicated that claim 62 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 61, 75-93 and 107-110 would also be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The amendments above and these remarks are believed to put these claims in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

C. Summary:


The Applicants believe that no fees or petitions for extensions of time are presently due. However, should any such fees or petitions be necessary, please consider this a request therefor and charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 as necessary.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for her thorough review of the claims in this application. Further, the Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that the application be passed to allowance. In the event the Examiner has questions or comments and a telephone conversation would expedite a resolution, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (303) 629-3400.

The Applicants respectfully request a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2005

Respectfully submitted:


Paul J. Prendergast, Reg. No. 46,068
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
USPTO Customer No. 20686

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cc: IP Docketing
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